REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated May 8, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application of which Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,023,263 to Wood in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,856,829 to Gray, in view of admitted prior art in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,303 to Meijers. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,023,263 to Wood in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,856,829 to Gray, in view of admitted prior art in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,303 to Meijers in yet further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,144 to Nelson.

Statement of Common Ownership

It is respectfully submitted that the present patent application and U.S. Patent No. 6,442,303 to Meijers were, at the time the invention of the present patent application was made, commonly owned by the same entity or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity.
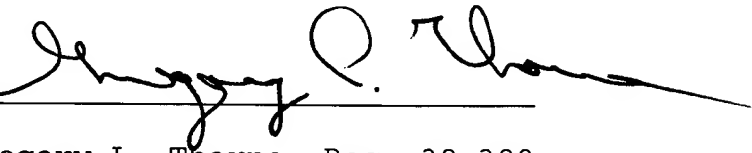
Based on the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent No. 6,442,303 is disqualified as prior art. Accordingly,

it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8 are allowable and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. 39,398
Senior Patent Counsel
(914) 333-9665
August 6, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On _August 6, 2003_

By _Naomi Chopa_
   Mailing Party